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WISDOM and EXPERIENCE

Senior Community Emergency Response Teams (Senior CERT)

The DC Commission on National and Community Service (DC-CNCS) and DC Citizen Corps provide District residents with valuable disaster training and education programs that can enhance the services of fire departments, police departments, and emergency medical personnel in the event of a natural or man-made hazard. By teaching residents what they can do to help themselves, their families and neighbors during a disaster, these programs will increase community involvement in emergency preparedness and response.



What is the purpose of the Senior CERT program?

- To provide senior citizens with emergency preparedness training to assist themselves and their neighbors in the event of an emergency.
- To link seniors with their Neighborhood Corps, a group of volunteers trained in one of the DC Citizen Corps volunteer programs that can respond and handle disasters of all kinds in their neighborhood.

What is Senior CERT?

Senior CERT is a program that actively recruits senior residents to become trained volunteers who can safely and effectively assist themselves and their neighbors during an emergency.

We recognize the valuable talents and experiences of seniors that have created substantial solidarity within the community and want to put these experiences to work.

- To foster an intergenerational dialogue that involves seniors and creates a greater sense of security to our young people affected by threats to our community.

This is accomplished by:

- Identifying a network of community associations, youth groups, Neighborhood Corps, and other local community groups to establish regular contact with senior citizens living in their neighborhoods.
- Providing senior citizens with Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training.

- Encouraging youth to work with seniors to develop emergency plans while building stronger community relationships.

Who is involved in Senior CERT?

DC Citizen Corps works in concert with the DC Citizen Corps Council to integrate the District's seniors into its community service and emergency preparedness agenda.



To launch the program, DC Citizen Corps will work with the DC Office on Aging, the CERT program administered by the George Washington University Medical Center, Teen DC, and members of faith and community-based organizations.

These alliances will not only identify and train senior citizens in emergency preparedness, but help neighborhoods build cross-generational bridges within the community in order to establish strong neighborhood ties.

What is the role of Senior CERT in your neighborhood?

- To help recruit, locate and track senior citizens who wish to contribute.

- To link senior citizens with the members of their community already trained to assist them in emergencies.

- To provide senior citizens with the skills necessary to assist themselves and other members of their community in ways which use their specific skill set.

How does Senior CERT benefit your neighborhood?

- It contributes to the quality of life in your neighborhood.
- It helps to identify the special needs of neighbors.

- It educates senior citizens about emergency preparedness.



- It engages youth and families in regular communication with seniors.
- It promotes Neighborhood Corps, neighbors helping neighbors.

What are the individual benefits of Senior CERT?

- It creates a support system that helps senior citizens with everyday needs and concerns.
- It helps seniors learn about and use resources to address social, health and safety needs.
- It helps neighbors to get to know neighbors.

How can I get involved?

- DC Citizen Corps volunteer programs include:
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
 - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Corps
 - Metropolitan Police Reserve Corps (PRC)
 - Disaster Action Team (DAT)
 - Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
 - Greater DC Cares

For more information about

DC Citizen Corps, its volunteer programs, and to sign up as

a senior volunteer, contact:

**The DC Commission on
National and Community
Service at: (202) 727-7925.**

Visit our website at:

www.cnscs.dc.gov